(b) if so, whether it will be proper to eat without cooking;

(c) the positive and negative effects of this new variety;

(d) whether the above said variety has come to the market; and

(e) whether it will be promoted for public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) As per information provided by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, parboiled form of a rice variety called Aghonibora developed by the Regional Agricultural Research Station, Titabor, Assam has been found to be fit to eat by soaking in normal water for about 40 minutes without boiling/steaming.

(c) It has the advantage that there is no loss of nutrients during cooking.

(d) and (e) Only small quantities of this variety of rice is grown by farmers and it is not being procured for Central Pool for distribution under Targetted Public Distribution System.

Shortage of sugar

3300. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of sugar in the market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there will be any effect in the open market on sugar prices due to the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No Sir. There is no shortage of sugar in the market.

(c) The price of sugar in the open market depends upon a number of factors like demand, supply, international prices and market sentiments etc. It is therefore, difficult to indicate the impact of a single factor on sugar prices.

Food Security Bill

3301. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is bringing Food Security Bill in the Parliament; and

(b) in view of the rice being provided at Rs. 2/- per kg in Orissa and other States what is the exact subsidy share of State Government and Central Government in providing subsidized rice to poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act (NFSA).